

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] FIG. 5 is an enlarged partial view of the isometric view of FIG. 4 showing the distal end of the support tube and the distal end of the inner rod with the gastric band partially removed.

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] Referring now to the Figures wherein like numerals indicate the same elements throughout the views, there is shown in FIG. 1 an isometric view of an unactuated gastric band introduction device 10 ready for introduction into a patient. The gastric band introduction device 10 includes an elongated support tube 2 with a handle 7 at a proximal end. The gastric band introduction device 10 preferably includes a pair of opposed finger loops 3 extending outwardly from the handle 7. An inner rod 5 is slidably located within the support tube 2 and has a thumb ring 4 at a proximal end and one or more upwardly protruding pins 6 for engaging a gastric band 20 at the distal end. The inner rod 5 may also include a shelf 11 located at the distal end of the support tube 2 for holding a gastric band 20. The inner rod 5 may also include a longitudinal protrusion 12 which may engage a longitudinal groove [(not shown)] 13 in the support tube 2 for effecting the sliding engagement between the inner rod 5 and support tube 2 and also for stabilizing the inner rod 5 when it is inserted into the support tube 5.